

**Premier of Ontario**

D. McGuinty

**MPPs**

B. Delaney

V. Dhillon

P. Fonseca

L. Jeffrey

K. Kular

T. Peterson

H. Takhar

J. Tory

*From:*  
**Regional Council**  
*and the offices of:*  
**E. Kolb**  
 Regional Chair  
**D. Szwarc**  
 CAO

**City of Brampton**  
 Susan Fennell,  
 Mayor  
 Grant Gibson  
 Gael Miles  
 Elaine Moore  
 Paul Palleschi  
 John Sanderson  
 John Sprovieri

**Town of Caledon**  
 Annette Groves  
 Marolyn Morrison,  
 Mayor  
 Richard Paterak  
 Allan Thompson  
 Richard Whitehead

**City of Mississauga**  
 Eve Adams  
 George Carlson  
 Carmen Corbasson  
 Frank Dale  
 Nando Iannicca  
 Katie Mahoney  
 Hazel McCallion,  
 Mayor  
 Sue McFadden  
 Patricia Mullin  
 Carolyn Parrish  
 Maja Prentice  
 Pat Saito

## Inclusion in a Digital Age: Peel Hosts International Day of Disabled

Through commitment and continuous improvement, the Region of Peel continues to ensure that Regional services, programs and facilities become more inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities.

On November 9, 2006, Peel celebrated the third annual International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP) by hosting its first community forum to engage people with disabilities, community members and staff in a dialogue to improve accessibility within Peel. Some highlights of this inclusive event included a coast-to-coast webcast, sign language interpreters, real-time caption and adaptive technology displays. Approximately 175 participants attended the event which took place at the Holiday Inn in the City of Brampton. Another 53 participants from across Canada joined in the discussion by webcast.

Initially established in 1992 by the United Nations, IDDP not only recognizes the many contributions that persons with disabilities make to Peel communities, but also highlights the accomplishments of the Region's Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), Regional employees and private sector partners.

*"People with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as people without disabilities; however, they often encounter barriers that impede their ability to take full advantage of their rights or exercise their responsibilities. At the Region of Peel, we are committed to eliminating barriers so persons*

*with disabilities can continue to be actively involved in all aspects of society," said David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer.*

As part of the community forum at IDDP, keynote speaker Jutta Treviranus, an international expert on adaptive technology and Director of the Adaptive Technology Research Centre at the University of Toronto, addressed technology and how electronic information and resources can be accessible to all. Event attendees also learned how to effectively communicate with and prevent, identify and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities.



At the IDDP event, Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist for the Region of Peel, talks to a local reporter about accessibility planning.

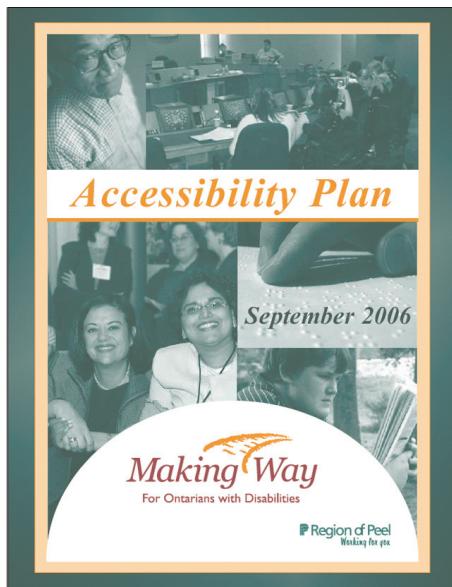
### A Year of Moving Forward

The Region of Peel's AAC has come a long way since its formation four years ago. The committee is comprised of three Regional Council members and six community representatives, all of whom have a disability.

Some key accomplishments in 2006 include:

- Developed the fourth annual Region of Peel and Town of Caledon Accessibility Plans

- Conducted lunch & learn training sessions for Regional staff to enhance their accessibility knowledge and to design accessible promotional materials using Universal Design principals
- Provided expert advice to staff on improving accessibility of regional facilities and services for persons with disabilities



#### **Peel Successes:**

- First government in Canada to receive the Canada Award for Excellence (CAE)
  - Gold Trophy by the National Quality Institute
- Debt-free since 1997
- Triple A municipal credit rating
- Lowest water rates in the GTA
- Stable future for Peel through responsible growth management and long-range financial planning

*"Persons with disabilities are diverse, talented people who are actively involved in their communities, families, hobbies and jobs and make important contributions to the development of a better Peel," said Regional Councillor Richard Paterak, Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee.*

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario, the Region of Peel is committed to developing effective strategies to improve Peel's quality of life and providing programs and services that are accessible to all Peel residents.

For more information, please call 905-791-7800, or visit [peelregion.ca](http://peelregion.ca)

**MPs**

N. Bains  
C. Beaumier  
R. Dhalla  
A. Guarneri  
W. Khan  
G. Malhi  
O. Alghabra  
P. Szabo  
D. Tilson

From:  
**Regional Council**  
and the offices of:

**E. Kolb**  
Regional Chair

**D. Szwarc**  
CAO

**City of Brampton**

Susan Fennell,  
Mayor

Grant Gibson

Gael Miles

Elaine Moore

Paul Palleschi

John Sanderson

John Sprovieri

**Town of Caledon**

Annette Groves

Marolyn Morrison,  
Mayor

Richard Paterak

Allan Thompson

Richard Whitehead

**City of Mississauga**

Eve Adams

George Carlson

Carmen Corbasson

Frank Dale

Nando Iannicca

Katie Mahoney

Hazel McCallion,  
Mayor

Sue McFadden

Patricia Mullin

Carolyn Parrish

Maja Prentice

Pat Saito

## Inclusion in a Digital Age: Peel Hosts International Day of Disabled

Through commitment and continuous improvement, the Region of Peel continues to ensure that Regional services, programs and facilities become more inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities.

On November 9, 2006, Peel celebrated the third annual International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP) by hosting its first community forum to engage people with disabilities, community members and staff in a dialogue to improve accessibility within Peel. Some highlights of this inclusive event included a coast-to-coast webcast, sign language interpreters, real-time caption and adaptive technology displays. Approximately 175 participants attended the event which took place at the Holiday Inn in the City of Brampton. Another 53 participants from across Canada joined in the discussion by webcast.

Initially established in 1992 by the United Nations, IDDP not only recognizes the many contributions that persons with disabilities make to Peel communities, but also highlights the accomplishments of the Region's Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), Regional employees and private sector partners.

*"People with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as people without disabilities; however, they often encounter barriers that impede their ability to take full advantage of their rights or exercise their responsibilities. At the Region of Peel, we are committed to eliminating barriers so persons*

*with disabilities can continue to be actively involved in all aspects of society,"* said David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer.

As part of the community forum at IDDP, keynote speaker Jutta Treviranus, an international expert on adaptive technology and Director of the Adaptive Technology Research Centre at the University of Toronto, addressed technology and how electronic information and resources can be accessible to all. Event attendees also learned how to effectively communicate with and prevent, identify and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities.



At the IDDP event, Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist for the Region of Peel, talks to a local reporter about accessibility planning.

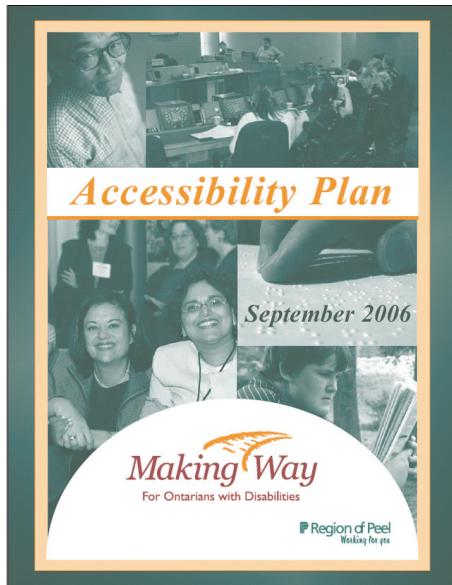
### A Year of Moving Forward

The Region of Peel's AAC has come a long way since its formation four years ago. The committee is comprised of three Regional Council members and six community representatives, all of whom have a disability.

Some key accomplishments in 2006 include:

- Developed the fourth annual Region of Peel and Town of Caledon Accessibility Plans

- Conducted lunch & learn training sessions for Regional staff to enhance their accessibility knowledge and to design accessible promotional materials using Universal Design principals
- Provided expert advice to staff on improving accessibility of regional facilities and services for persons with disabilities



#### **Peel Successes:**

- First government in Canada to receive the Canada Award for Excellence (CAE)
  - Gold Trophy by the National Quality Institute
- Debt-free since 1997
- Triple A municipal credit rating
- Lowest water rates in the GTA
- Stable future for Peel through responsible growth management and long-range financial planning

*"Persons with disabilities are diverse, talented people who are actively involved in their communities, families, hobbies and jobs and make important contributions to the development of a better Peel," said Regional Councillor Richard Paterak, Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee.*

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario, the Region of Peel is committed to developing effective strategies to improve Peel's quality of life and providing programs and services that are accessible to all Peel residents.

For more information, please call 905-791-7800, or visit [peelregion.ca](http://peelregion.ca).